

California Regional Water Quality Control Board

NORTH COAST REGION

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EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

February 2004

ADMINISTRATION

The State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan program is almost out of money for new communities

The SRF loan program primarily provides low interest loans to communities that need to upgrade their waste water treatment facilities. The funds from the last revenue bonds sale have been mostly committed. Thirty-eight million dollars may be available next year for communities with populations less than 20,000. However, until a new set of bonds are sold in FY 2004/05-06, communities will need to look for other sources for financing.

TIMBER HARVEST DIVISION

Status of the Elk River Sensitive Watershed

[Staff Contact: Holly Lundborg]

A brief update on the status of the Elk River Sensitive Watershed nomination was presented at the January 8, 2004 Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (BOF) meeting in Sacramento. The BOF had previously selected one of its board members to act as chairman of the Sensitive Watershed review committee. The review committee chairman informed the board that he is still accepting nominations to the review committee with the intent of bringing a suggested list of committee members to the full board for their consideration at the February BOF meeting. Regional Water Board staff has provided the BOF's Executive Officer with a list of Regional Water Board staff as well as recommending the inclusion of two consulting foresters involved in Elk River non-industrial timberland planning and management.

During the months of November and December 2003 the Timber Harvest Division received 51 new Timber Harvest Plans (THPs) and 5 amendments for existing THPs. Staff participated in First Review meetings for 44 THPs and participated in Second Review meetings for 19 THPs. Twenty-two inspections were conducted during November and December 2003.

NOTE: This is a snap shot of a working database with data entered as of January 16, 2004.

CALIFORNIA WATER CODE SECTION 13267 LETTER ORDERS

Five (5) California Water Code Section 13267(b) letter orders were issued during the months of November and December 2003. On December 1, 2003 a letter order was sent to Hewlett Packard Company, Fountaingrove Site for solvent discharges. On December 5 a letter order was sent to Christopherson Homes Inc., Cottages of Cloverdale Phase 4 because the discharger filled a wetland and streambed without proper certification and/or permits. Martin Mileck with Cold Creek Compost was sent a letter order on December 13 for failure to submit an annual storm water report that was due on July 1, 2003. Chuck Butler was sent a letter order for Timber Harvest Plan 1-96-366 SON requiring continued monitoring during or after heavy storm events. The letter order also addressed maintenance issues that need to be implemented. On December 16 Jon Green Vineyard Development was issued a letter order because land was cleared without a proper timber harvest plan or timberland conversion permit.

TIMBER HARVEST ACTIVITIES

CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ORDERS

Two Cleanup and Abatement Orders (CAO) were issued during November and December 2003. CAO No. R1-2003-0127 was issued on November 13, 2003 to Sierra Pacific Industries, Arcata Division for discharges of petroleum hydrocarbons, pentachlorophenol, tetrachlorophenol and other toxic compounds to Mad River Slough and groundwater. CAO No. R1-2003-0131 was issued on December 1, 2003 to Philip Arnot, McNamara & Peepe Corporation detailing measures needed to cleanup and abate the threat to groundwater.

Two Cleanup and Abatement Orders were rescinded during November and December 2003. On November 15, 2003 Recision Order No. R1-2003-0102 was issued to Jolene Rose and Ronald Dixon. On December 9, 2003 Recision Order No. R1-2003-0136 was issued to Beaver Lumber Company of Arcata.

ADMINISTRATIVE CIVIL LIABILITY COMPLAINTS/ ORDERS

One Administrative Civil Liability Complaint was issued during November and December 2003. The complaint was issued to Vintage Greens LLC, for Vintage Greens Phases 2, 3 and 4 for sediment violations of their storm water permit. Originally an Administrative Civil Liability complaint was issued with the expectation that the Board would hear the item at its January 2004 Board Meeting. The complaint was reissued on December 31, 2003 to accommodate the Board Meeting schedule change to February 11, 2004.

UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK CLEANUP FUND PROGRAM

For the month of November 2003, \$1,021,862 and for the month of December 2003, \$1,854,809 in funds were issued to tank owners in Region 1 from the Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund.

PROPOSITION 65 NOTIFICATIONS

Two Proposition 65 Notifications were submitted to our office during December 2003. On December 11, 2003 it was reported that an incident of suspected dumping of trichloroethene at Santa Rosa Stainless Steel, 1400 Airport Boulevard, Santa Rosa had occurred.

On December 5, 2003 Exxon collected its quarterly sample from their irrigation well at Mayette Apartments, 3725 Mayette Avenue in Santa Rosa. MTBE, Benzene and TBA were detected in the samples. Exxon reported these results on December 15, 2003.

SPIILLS, COMPLAINTS, AND INVESTIGATIONS

Four Sewage System Overflows (SSOs) were reported during November and December 2003.

On November 11, Brooktrails Township CSD had an estimated 5 gallons of untreated sewage spill due to a blocked collection line. The collection line was cleared and operations returned to normal.

An estimated 200 gallons of untreated sewage was discharged to Eureka Slough from the Eureka City Elk River WWTP on November 3. The plugged line was cleared and the surrounding area was cleaned.

On December 29, 2003, approximately 300 gallons of untreated sewage spilled from the "H" Street lift station.

The Weed Police Department reported on December 31 that a partial plug in the interceptor main caused a sewage overflow from the City of Weed collection system. Preliminarily, the overflow was estimated at 250,000 gallons.

Twelve Complaints were received during November and December 2003.

On November 10, 2003 a complaint came in from California Department of Fish and Game regarding the discharge of turbid water down a storm drain at Healdsburg High School. No

erosion or sediment controls were in place on the 11 acre site with 100 percent exposed soils.

An anonymous caller made a complaint on November 4 that heavy equipment was being operated within very close proximity to Mill Creek, tributary of the Navarro River. No erosion control measures were in place and no permits had been obtained for the grading.

On November 17 at 3:00 a.m. a resident of the Wikiup area in Santa Rosa made a complaint regarding the discharge of concrete chunks and plant debris in Mark West Creek.

The Sonoma County Permitting Department made a complaint on December 4, 2003 regarding a property owner on Quiet Water Road who is putting in a culvert in a tributary to Mark West Creek, within 100 feet of the confluence. No permits were obtained for this work.

An Asti Road, Cloverdale resident called on December 5 to report grading, heavy equipment, and abandoned cars leaking oil and battery fluid were in wetlands/ creek area on the Peschi Vineyards property. This has been a long-time problem.

An anonymous complaint was made on December 5 about private landowners on Freezeout Road, Duncans Mills. New property owners have begun construction of a new road, using heavy equipment on a section of hillside that flows into Freezeout Creek. There is a large stockpile of dirt and it is now eroding into Freezeout Creek. The heavy equipment was being used during a rainfall event and there was significant erosion that may have entered the Russian River via Freezeout Creek.

On December 9, 2003 a Santa Rosa resident to report concern with the lack of adequate erosion control and storm water treatment on the site of Red Tail Estates, Melita Road, Santa Rosa.

At 1:40 a.m. on December 12 we received an anonymous report that during the previous three days, Pacific Lumber Company trucks have been hauling ash to a farm located near California Street in Ferndale. The ash is being used as fill to buffer cattle from walking atop the mud. Several feet of ash have been placed. Francis Creek flows either through the property or near it.

Concern was expressed that storm water runoff might transport ash to the creek.

An Eureka resident called at 3:30 a.m. on December 12 to express her concern about roadwork pollution on Rush Creek Road in Weaverville. Material from a demolished house was used to backfill a ditch causing potential impacts to Trinity River, located nearby. The material was later transported to an appropriate disposal site and no water quality issues resulted from these activities.

Regional Water Board staff received a complaint on December 16, 2003 regarding a Sonoma County Street Sweeper truck. On December 9 a sweeper truck was observed dumping its load of dirty water into a creek off Piezzi Road in Santa Rosa.

A Crescent City resident called to report storm water runoff from an illegal rock quarry flowing into Gilbert Street on December 16, 2003. The complaint suggests discharging sediment to be the concern. The quarry produces about 5-10,000 cubic yards. Approximately 50 yards beyond where the road pavement ends there is one of several quarries located on the property located off Spyglass Road. One of the non-permitted rock quarries is being used as a dump site for logs. Burying logs at a quarry site might have contributed to a recent landslide that blocked Ocean View Drive. The property owner needs to obtain required permits to continue development of the property.

On December 31, 2003 the City of Weed Police Department reported that a partial plug in the interceptor main caused sewage to overflow from the City of Weed's collection system. Preliminarily the overflow was estimated at 250,000 gallons. City personnel unplugged the blockage and the overflow ceased.

NOTE: Staff is investigating these spills and complaints and will bring enforcement actions before the board where appropriate and necessary.

LEAKING UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS

Three new Leaking Underground Storage Tanks cases were added during November and December of 2003. The new cases are: Bowker/Dougherty Residence, 35001 Woodside Court, Anchor Bay, Mendocino County; Downey Property, 121 Chestnut Street, Santa Rosa, Sonoma County; and, SBC TD 648, 300 Kuki Lane, Ukiah, Mendocino County.

CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 CERTIFICATIONS

Twelve (12) new applications for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification were received during November and December 2003. Five (5) 401 Certifications were issued and one was denied without prejudice during the same months.

Information regarding all proposed certifications is available in the Board's web site at:

http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb1/Public_Notices/401certs/notice401.html

PUBLIC FILE REVIEW

From November 1 through December 31, 2003, four written Public Records Act Requests were made for review and/or copies of the Regional Water Board's records. In addition, a total of 54 people came into the office and requested review of files.

PUBLIC OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

On December 17, 2003 Regional Water Board staff member Andrew Baker participated in the Vineyard/Ranch Erosion Control Workshop that was hosted by Gold Ridge Resource

Conservation District through grant funding from the Sonoma County Water Agency. The topic of Mr. Baker's presentation was "Erosion Control and Water Laws."

UPCOMING REGIONAL WATER BOARD MEETINGS

The North Coast Regional Water Board will hold its regularly scheduled Board Meeting on March 24, 2004 in the Regional Water Board's Hearing Room, 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California.

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our web-site at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov>.